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Mideast Center Chief to Quit Over CIA Aid

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 1—The director of Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies will resign that post in light of an investigation of his handling of CIA financial support for his work, a newspaper said today.

Nadav Safran "would prefer to step down" as director at the end of the academic year, The Boston Globe said, quoting a university report by A. Michael Spence, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences.

Safran will remain at Harvard as a tenured professor, Spence said.

The report also concluded that the university was partly to blame for not taking action after Safran informed Harvard officials of a CIA contract supporting his work, the Globe said. The contract contained conditions that may have violated Harvard's rules on sponsored research, Spence said.

The six-page report, culminating a three-month investigation, is due to be released Thursday. Both Spence and Safran declined comment until then, said the Globe, which obtained a copy of the report.

The case caused concern over CIA financing for research last fall after disclosures that Safran had accepted, but not disclosed, more than \$45,000 from the CIA to finance a conference on Islamic fundamentalism at Harvard's Faculty Club in October. It was later learned that Safran also accepted \$107,000 in CIA funds for a book on Saudi Arabia published this year, without initially disclosing it publicly, the Globe said.